



Central Intelligence Agency
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

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NOTE TO:

SOVA/PA

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With regard to the tentative agenda of the propaganda and disinformation conference, it probably would be worth adding a session on how the Soviets see our vulnerabilities to these efforts.

With respect to attendees, the list looks pretty good. I would add both Bill Harris and Angelo Codevilla and invite them.

RG.

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

DDI/RMGates/de

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*How do they
See our vulnerability*

Proposal for an Academic Conference
on

"Contemporary Soviet Propaganda and Disinformation"

-- Tentative Agenda --

INTRODUCTION-- An overview of the nature and dimensions of the problem

I. SEMANTICS AND IDEOLOGY: THEORETICAL APPROACHES

- A. The Relationship of Semantics to Culture and Ideology
- B. The Role of Semantics in Authoritarian and Democratic Societies
- C. The Soviet World-View as the Basis of Thought and Action

II. SOVIET PROPAGANDA GOALS AND THEMES: APPLICATIONS

- A. Updating The Operational Code of the Politburo: The Durability of Soviet Ideology
- B. The Molding of Soviet Self-Images
- C. The Approach to Discourse in International Relations
 - 1. The Concept of Diplomacy and Ideological Struggle
 - 2. Dealing With Allied Forces
 - 3. Dealing With Adversarial Forces
- D. The Lexicon of Soviet Propaganda: The Connotative Content

III. THE ANATOMY OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA MECHANISMS

- A. The Uses of Media, Diplomacy, and Unofficial Relationships
- B. Lessons From Soviet Historiography: The Treatment of World War II
- C. The Peace Movement in Europe: Manipulation of Popular Perceptions
- D. The Arms Control Arena: Target on Policy Initiatives

E. "National Liberation Movements"

F. The Soviet "Defense Burden" and the Specter of War

IV. IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS

A. How Moscow Rates Its Performance

B. How Moscow Copes With the Contradictions

1. Dissidence

2. The Economy

3. Afghanistan

C. Vulnerabilities and Costs to the Soviet System and People

ASSESSMENT -- Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet use of propaganda and disinformation against the West's national security interests.

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